London, Feb. 29, 1772.

PROPOSALS

For printing in One Large Volume, QUARTO,

(To be publiſhed in Monthly Numbers)

A New Hiſtory of LONDON,

The Metropolis of the BRITISH Empire:

Including the contiguous City of

WESTMINSTER,

AND

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK.

To which will be added,

An ACCURATE SURVEY of the Whole;

With Deſcriptions of the Public Buildings, late Improvements, &c.

ILLUSTRATED WITH ELEGANT COPPER-PLATES.

By JOHN NOORTHOUCK.

CONDITIONS.

I. THIS Work, as above declared, will be contained in one handſome Volume Quarto, neatly printed on good Paper.

II. The deſcriptive Part, or Survey of the Metropolis, will be embelliſhed with a Variety of Copper-Plates, ſuitable to the Work, and elegantly engraved.

III. Eighty full printed Pages (with Cuts, as they are finiſhed) will be publiſhed on the laſt Day of every Month, that the Numbers may be conveniently delivered with the current Monthly Publications; at the Price of Half a Crown.

IV. It is computed that the Whole will be contained in ten Numbers; but if, contrary to preſent Expectation, it ſhould extend to twelve, the Purchaſers may be aſſured, that the Twelfth Number, however large, ſhall include the Whole, at the Price beforementioned, (which at the utmoſt will not amount to half the Price of Maitland.)

V. With the firſt Number, which will be publiſhed on Tueſday the 31ſt of March, will be given a large two Sheet Map of the Cities of London, Weſtminſter, and Borough of Southwark, according to their preſent improved State: Together with elegant Views of all the Gates of the City of London, and the fine old Gothic Gate at Whitehall; lately taken down.

VI. In the laſt Number will be given an accurate and full Index to the Whole.

LONDON,

Printed for R. BALDWIN, No. 47, in Pater-noſter Row;

And may be had of all the Bookſellers and News-Carriers in Great-Britain and Ireland.

PLAN of the WORK.

IT is well known that the principal events which compoſe the hiſtory of London, have already been laborioufly collected by Stowe, Strype, and Maitland; whoſe works being bulky, expenſive, and tedioufly prolix, though often defective, meer abridgements of them have ſince been made with the titles of new performances, both under real and fictitious names.

The principal intention of the undertaking now propoſed, is to give a connected, hiſtorical, and deſcriptive account, of the metropolis of our own country, in a convenient ſize, and at an eaſy price: by contracting verboſe details to bring the intereſting matter cloſer together; and by a proper abridgement of events of leſs moment, to afford room for the due conſideration of thoſe of more importance. A labour not altogether ſo eaſy, as may at firſt view be imagined, nor yet ſo honourable as to afford any great expectation of applauſe to reward the execution.

Where different perſons travel the ſame journey, it will be almoſt impoſſible for thoſe who follow laſt, to avoid tracing the footſteps of thoſe who went before, eſpecially in places where the road happens to be narrow. It will hence be natural to ſuppoſe, and it is acknowledged, that Maitland, the induſtrious enlarger and continuator of Stowe and Strype, has been conſulted as a general guide through this work. Where the writer preferred other relations, as more ſatisfactory, or where he diſcovered facts that eſcaped Maitland, which circumſtances become frequent in the latter periods of the hiſtory; the authorities from whence they were derived, are produced as vouchers for the compiler, and for the ſatisfaction of the reader. Yet will the author endeavour to preſerve his pen from being led aſide by any bias he may perceive in the writers who have been conſulted for materials; hoping that an impartial ſtate of facts may be acceptable to moderate perſons of all parties, who are at liberty to draw their own inferences from the premiſes.

The ſeveral charters of the city of London, with other papers of record relating to the corporation, neceſſary to be introduced; are claſſed together in an appendix, properly numbered and duly referred to. By this method the courſe of the hiſtory is not broken by the intervention of materials, which thoſe only who are intereſted in the affairs of the city may want to conſult occaſionally.

Boroughs and corporations at their firſt erection, proved excellent aſylums for artiſans and traders from the arbitrary claims of their feudal lords. In the work now offered to the public, the happy progreſs and influence of commerce in the great corporation of London will be traced, until by the general diffuſion of property, a more liberal, popular, ſyſtem of government took place of military barbariſm, and feudal tyranny. Commerce was the original parent of Engliſh liberty; they have ever ſince proceeded hand in hand: and we may continue free, rich and happy, ſo long as we guard againſt the extenſion of military power, which, ſince the reſtoration of Charles II. has been again growing up in another form; and however plauſible in its preſent inſtitution, may, without due circumſpection on the part of the people, be ſome time or other fatally miſapplied.

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The wealth of the citizens of London, as it gives them great influence in the affairs of the nation; ſo this circumſtance diſpoſed the legiſlature in whatever hands it was lodged, to protect that commerce, on which their ability to grant aſſiſtance to government depended. This mutual convenience generally created a good underſtanding between the city and the executive power for the time being; and may account for the conduct of the citizens in particular caſes, which, if not always conſiſtent, was at leaſt often prudent. From theſe cauſes the municipal government of the corporation was ſeldom diſturbed from without; and being moſtly engaged on the current annual buſineſs within, the materials it furniſhes fit for hiſtory, are but occaſional; and having often no chain of connexion but with the political concerns of the nation, theſe muſt be ſo far kept in view. The expediency will hence appear of attending ſomewhat more to thoſe domeſtic tranſactions by which London was affected, than other hiſtorians of the metropolis have done: for where cauſes are not well explained, their effects will be ill underſtood. At the ſame time, all the care the nature of the caſes would admit, has been taken of not including too wide a field of attention.

As it appeared needful to enter farther into the cauſes of ſome events, than had been done in former works of this nature, ſo the various tranſactions that took place, afforded occaſional opportunities for general remarks on their tendency and conſequences; and on the influence the advancement of commerce had on the improvement of civil policy. This taſk has been alſo in great meaſure left for the preſent writer to perform in an hiſtory of London; how far he may have properly availed himſelf of ſuch opportunities, or uſed the liberties he has taken, muſt be determined by the public, to whoſe candour his work is ſubmitted.

The mercantile connexions of the city of London, extend much farther than the power of antient Rome ever reached by the ſword; and the former derives more ſolid advantages from a reciprocation of friendly offices with all the world, than the latter ever enjoyed from an overgrown hoſtile dominion. In Rome, the ſtate collectively was powerful indeed, but individuals were poor; until the plunder of provinces enriched her commanders; when ſhe ſoon fell a prey firſt to her own treacherous ſervants, and afterward to rude northern invaders. In London we ſee individuals wealthy, becauſe they are induſtrious; the conveniences of poliſhed ſociety, being enjoyed in ſome degree, by all ranks of her citizens: the aggregate therefore is powerful; for riches are the ſinews of war, to a proverb. The liberties of the citizens of London have already exiſted under a continual increaſe, longer than thoſe of the aſpiring Romans; and they ſtill flouriſh by the cultivation of the peaceful arts, which the citizens are nevertheleſs always ready and able to protect when diſturbed. But while London appears ſuperior to Rome, when their circumſtances are thus contraſted, the comparative advantages of their hiſtorians are inverted. The glare of martial atchievements, when magnified by the animating powers of language, gives brilliancy to the epic page: on the contrary, the records of the uſeful labours of manufactures and commerce, where the writer dares not knowingly take any liberties with truth, and where there are few events to ſurprize and captivate the imagination; ſeldom intereſt any but the ſerious and

contemplative. The ſenators of Rome, moreover, were the national legiſlators; the aldermen and common-council men of London are meerly municipal lawgivers, under the protection of the ſtate, and whoſe power extends no farther than their own precincts. Hence the hiſtory of London is chiefly employed on tranſactions of a lower order, (though not therefore leſs worthy of attention) and is obliged to deſcend to more minute particulars, than conſiſt with the objects of national hiſtory. Many incidents that were of a caſual or local nature, unavoidably appear in the form of detached narratives; and ſometimes interrupt the connexion of matters that have a natural dependence on each other. For theſe reaſons alone, were there no other cauſe for diſclaiming pretenſions to it, elegance of diction is more than the writer of this hiſtory can promiſe: he will only plead his endeavours to render the work faithful and accurate.

Bernard's-Inn, Holborn,
Feb. 29, 1772.

J. NOORTHOUCK.

A LIST *of* MAPS, PLANS, *and* VIEWS *of* PUBLIC BUILDINGS, *now engraving by the beſt Artiſts, for this Work.*

A Large two ſheet map of London, Weſtminſter and Southwark.
A map of twenty miles round the metropolis.
A map ſhewing the deſolation by the great fire in 1666.
Sir Chriſtopher Wren's plan for rebuilding London.
Sir John Evelyn's ditto.
The Monument.
The ſeveral gates of the city of London as they lately ſtood.
London bridge as it appeared with the houſes on it.
The ſame as now re-edified.
Blackfriar's bridge.
Weſtminſter bridge.
Plans of the ſeveral wards of the city of London.
Tower of London.
Guildhall.
Royal Exchange, with a ground plot of its area, ſhewing the walks of the reſpective merchants.
Manſion-houſe of the Lord-Mayor of London.
Cathedral church of St. Paul.
Weſtminſter Abbey.
Bank of England.
Cuſtom-houſe.
New Exciſe office.
The new buildings called the Adelphi, at Durham-yard.
Admiralty.
Horſe-guards.
Treaſury.
Banqueting houſe, Whitehall.
St. James's palace.
Somerſet houſe.
Weſtminſter hall.
Lambeth palace.
The much admired ſteeple of St. Mary le Bow church in Cheapſide.
A ground plot, ſection, and perſpective view of the interior, of the celebrated church of St. Stephen Wallbrook.
The arms of the ſeveral city companies according to their order.

Beſide the Views and Buildings above ſpecified, ſmaller ones will be given as under.

LEADENHALL—Blackwell hall—Guildhall chapel—Grocer's hall—St. Ann's church, within Alderſgate—St. Botolph, without Alderſgate—St. James's Duke's place—St. Catharine, Coleman—St. Martin's, Ludgate—St. Bennet, Paul's wharf—St. Andrew's Wardrobe—St. Mary at Hill, near Billingſgate—St. Botolph, in St. Botolph's lane—St. Ethelburga within Billingſgate—Pariſh church of Great St. Helen's—St. Matthew, Friday ſtreet—St. Mildred, Bread ſtreet—St. Chriſtopher, Threadneedle ſtreet—St. Bennet Finch, ditto—St. Bartholomew, behind the Royal Exchange—St. Mildred in the Poultry—St. Michael, Baſſiſhaw—St. Stephen, Coleman ſtreet—St. Michael, Queenhithe.